



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

IAN A. BOWLES
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000

Fax: (617) 626-1181

<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

May 19, 2008

Stephen C. Smith, Executive Director
Three Mile River ACEC Planning Committee
c/o SRPEDD
88 Broadway
Taunton, MA 02780

Re: Request to expand the proposed boundary of the Three Mile River Watershed Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Nomination

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your letter dated May 12, 2008, requesting an extension of the proposed boundary of the Three Mile River Watershed ACEC Nomination to include the Three Mile River to its confluence with the Taunton River. Although the Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District is eligible as a nominating party by regulation, I understand you also make this request on behalf of the Three Mile River ACEC Planning Committee, and in accordance with the wishes of the Mayor of Taunton, the Dighton Board of Selectmen, and the Conservation Commissions in Taunton and Dighton, within whose communities the proposed extension is located. I understand that the additional area will follow the limits of the 200-foot Riverfront Area as defined under the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Regulations. This proposal would result in a relatively small area being added to the 14, 210-acre nomination but will incorporate habitat for globally rare species and anadromous fish as well as a key portion of the river itself.

Following an initial review and pursuant to the ACEC Regulations at 301 CMR 12.07, I am accepting this additional proposal to be included within the full review of the Three Mile River Watershed ACEC Nomination that I accepted on April 7, 2008. I find that this additional area is consistent with the rest of the nomination in meeting the minimum regulatory criteria as set forth in the ACEC Regulations. I am requesting that you supply a map for public review which delineates the proposed boundary extension along with the originally proposed boundary.

As you know, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) administers the ACEC Program on behalf of my office. During the last month, the ACEC Program staff completed three public information meetings in Dighton, Norton, and Taunton, and they will conduct one more public information meeting before scheduling the public hearing. Both the original nomination and the proposed addition will be described at the public information meeting and detailed information concerning both will be posted online as described below.



This information will also be circulated to approximately 150 individual citizens, municipalities, organizations, and agencies on our nomination review mailing lists. Updates and meeting schedules will be posted on the ACEC Program website at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/acec/acecUpdates.htm> and on the nominators' website at <http://www.ibiblio.org/virtualcell/acec/>. The **full nomination document and information about the proposed extension** is available online at the nominators' website and printed copies are available for review at the Town and City Halls, at the three main public libraries, and at the offices of SRPEDD in Taunton.

Please contact ACEC Program Director Elizabeth Sorenson if you have any questions regarding this letter and the full public review, at (617) 626-1394, or by email at elizabeth.sorenson@state.ma.us.

Sincerely,



Ian A. Bowles
Secretary

cc: ACEC Program distribution list